

The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 1 - Number 9

JUNE, 1953



Superintendent Butterfield, Dr. Dovid W. Shepherd, the Rev. Joe A. French, Dr. Robert Coshmon, Dr. Thos. A. Tripp and the Rev. A. B. Bedford, as Dr. Coshmon offers the right hand of fellowship of the General Council following the Installation Service for the Superintendent.

WE ARE BUILDING

With the adoption of the new Constitution and By-laws by the Southeast Convention on May 17 in Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., the theme of "We Would Be Building" became the program "we are building" as plans crystalized into program, and as program is carried out in action by the various officers and committees during the coming year.

The Rev. Arnold Slater, pastor of the Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, was elected as Moderator for the ensuing year, with the Rev. Lowell A. Smoot, pastor of the United Church, Phenix City, Ala., as Moderator Elect. Other officers elected

by the Convention were: the Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Superintendent; Walter L. Jackson, Treasurer; and Mrs. Ed. A. Albright, Registrar.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the impressive Service of Installation for the Superintendent and for the other officers, the members of the Board of Directors and committees.

Elected to the Board of Directors were J. T. Gill of Tifton, Ga., for one year; Mrs. Jettie Logan of Tallassee, Ala., for two years; and the Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, Wadley, Ala., for three years.

Elected to the four Standing Committees were:



Rev. Arnold Slater

Committee on Ministry and Churches - Dr. Thos. Anderson, chairman, the Rev. Henry Abbott, the Rev. Guy L. Colbert, Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, and the Rev. Hugh Lasseter. Committee on Survey and Church Aid - the Rev. Goff Bedford, chairman, the Rev. W. C. Carpenter, Walter Crutchfield, C. C. Smith, and Richard Drake. The Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education - the Rev. Joe A. French, chairman, Mrs. Peter Doherty, the Rev. Carolyn Welch, Herman Cook, and Mrs. Arnold Slater. The Committee on Education and Youth Work - the Rev. John E. Pickens, Jr., chairman, the Rev. Annie R. Campbell, the Rev. D. W. Shepherd, the Rev. Earl Hand and Mrs. J. M. Gager, Jr.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Thos. A. Tripp, who offered congratulations on the success of the CBLF campaign and said here was more building of churches in the Southeast Convention than in any other area, with the possible exception of southern California. Dr. Tripp said that the church must have a concern for the community in which it exists and that the world will not be Christian until we have done something about the problem of human relationships—between classes, between races, between man and man, people and people. He said the point of inter-church cooperation is not shall we merge, but are we sufficiently Christian that we can work with other people? Dr. Tripp felt that every sermon should be theological, and added that we have in theology the nature of the church, the power of God, and the way of explaining what we mean when we say we are Christian. He also felt that adult education should be an important part of every church program.

One of the most important reports given at the meeting was the Church Building Loan Fund reported as presented by the Rev. Lowell A. Smoot, Convention chairman. Mr. Smoot announced that 59 churches (out of 121) have sent in their Declarations of Purpose with a total of \$23,575.00 pledged—or more than three-fourths of the Con-

vention goal of \$30,000. It is hoped that by fall the goal will be reached 100%. Mr. Smoot and his committee are available to any church which would like to have them come and tell the story of the CBLF to the church people.

Dynamic Churchmanship

Dr. Robert Cashman, Moderator of the General Council, addressed the Convention on the evening of May 16. He gave an outline of the work of the General Council, and added that there are 15,000 vacant Protestant pulpits and that, according to statistics, it takes 225 churches to produce one minister! He felt that the churches have a great responsibility and said "the seed of the gospel must be planted in the heart by those who care, and a person must accept of his own free will the Christian life."

Dr. Cashman also spoke of his work in training ministers in business and finance as a vital part of their ministerial training. He felt that the minister must make his congregation aware of the spiritual significance of finance, then adopt the program first and the budget later—with the final step being how to raise the money.

Fellowship Seminars

Each of the fellowship seminars met separately, and Convention officers were elected: for the Women's Fellowship, Mrs. T. L. Cunningham; for the Laymen's Fellowship, Herman D. Cook; and for the Pilgrim Fellowship, Millard Fuller.

The report of the Ministerial Fellowship meeting was given by the Rev. Hugh Lasseter, who told of the presentation of the Parish Work Book by Dr. Thos. A. Tripp and gave the nine points as outlined for the success of a rural church:

- 1) Regular services—a service every Sunday (11 o'clock is not the only Holy hour).
- 2) Christian theology as the basis of all preaching.
- 3) An adequate church plant—necessary to good work.
- 4) Systematic Financing—church budget and Every Member Canvass.
- 5) Prospect list—(all in community who are outside the church) and a continuous program of visitation evangelism.
- 6) An effective organization—shared responsibility through boards and committees (not a one-man church).
- 7) Responsible functions of laymen within the free and democratic process.
- 8) Applied Christianity on the part of Church members.
- 9) Good community relationships—the church a respected fellowship, "the leaven in the loaf."

Discussion on these points followed and brought forth many fine ideas. In closing, all agreed on the need for closer fellowship among the ministers of the Southeast Convention.

A PARISH WORKBOOK



Dr. Thomas Alfred Tripp, Director of the Town and Country Department, presenting a copy of the **PARISH WORKBOOK FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCHES** to the President of the Board of Home Missions, Dr. Howard Stone Anderson. Left to right: Dr. Douglas Horton, Minister of the General Council; Dr. Wesley A. Kotchkiss, Director of Research; Dr. Anderson; Dr. Tripp; Dr. Truman B. Douglass, Executive Vice-President, Board of Home Missions.

One of the most helpful source books ever to be offered to ministers and churches is now available through the **Town and Country Department** of the Board of Home Missions. It represents the efforts and experiences of many persons who have for many years been seeking answers to the problems and opportunities confronting our churches.

The volume is in loose leaf form in order that new chapters may be added as they come off the press. In this manner it becomes a continually expanding source of information and ideas.

The chapters already included provide an excellent **Self-Evaluation Scale**—a systematic method for the congregation, boards or committees to evaluate the work of their church—its organization, its program, its worship, finances, relationship to the community, the ministry and its morale. Every church, regardless of its size or membership, will find the self-evaluation scale a most helpful and inspiring activity.

To give you an idea of the purpose behind this

magnificent effort, let me quote from the Introduction:

"The intent of this **Parish Work Book** is that of helping to rediscover the real function and purpose of the Church, and to build in it a strength sufficient to enable it to exercise the quality of leadership so desperately needed in these troubled and confused times."

We are deeply indebted to the Marginal Church Committee, Supt. Frederick W. Alden, chairman, and the staff of our national Town and Country Department for placing in our hands this most valuable document. Order it now, either from the Board of Home Missions or through the Convention office. The cost is \$11.00, and includes each new chapter which will be sent free as soon as it becomes available. Let's get at least one Parish Workbook into the hands of the leaders in every one of our churches!

—Erston M. Butterfield

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"Why A Retreat?"

Retreat is a time to lay aside thoughts of business and personal care.

Retreat is a time to lay aside our argumentative and reasoning mind and become a lowly seeker, believing that if we seek we shall find, and if we ask we shall receive, and if we knock it shall be opened.

Retreat is a time for spiritual honesty with oneself.

Retreat is a time for Worship.

Retreat is a time for discussion; not the feverish discussion of the political arena nor the expounding of the pulpit but the quiet discussion of seekers together in search of truth. We can learn much from one another.

Retreat is a time to study the ways and laws of spiritual discipline.

Retreat is a time for vision.

(from the Layman's Program)

MISSIONARY SPEAKER

Miss del Carmen, who has served as Director of Youth Work of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (which includes some five denominations) will be the missionary speaker for the Wadley Junior and Senior High Conferences and for the Alabama Women's Retreat.

Eldest in a large family of a leading Filipino churchman, Miss del Carmen, graduate of Silliman University, Dumaguete, Philippine Islands (magna cum laude) is coming to the United States for further study in religious education looking toward an M.O. Her father, Cirilio del Carmen, is Moderator of the Northern Mindano District Conference and a leader in the churches in that area.

She has been teaching Christian education at Silliman College of Theology and has been highly successful in this work.

Divina del Carmen is not only a good student and teacher, but a good mixer. She makes friends easily and has an excellent sense of humor which American young people will enjoy.

REV. JIMMIE F. FRENCH

The Executive Committee of the East Alabama Association met at Southern Union College April 24th—and voted to approve the action of the Education Committee for the ordination of Jimmie F. French. He has made big plans for that ordination service. It was to be held at his old home church Noonday, the fourth Sunday in May, and his brother, Joe, was to officiate. The committee closed its meeting about 2:30 p.m. Jimmie reported the good news to his wife as soon as he got home and told her, "Honey, our future is all ahead of us. We are going all-out for God." He changed into his work clothes and went to help his brother-in-law, John Harmon, fertilize his fish-pond. In less than thirty minutes his boat turned over and he was drowned.

Jimmie French was born November 12, 1904, in Randolph County, Ala. He spent all his life in that county. At the time of his death he was serving his old home church. He was one of ten children—five boys and five girls. His brother, Joe A. French, is pastor of the Lanett Congregational Christian Church.

I remember quite well talking with Jimmie when he came to the college for our first In-Service training school for ministers. He came regularly each Saturday morning, and his wife came with him. They were both eager to get as much information as they possibly could. Before the quarter was over, Jimmie came to me one day and said, "Clyde, I have decided to sell my feed store." I asked him how he was going to make a living. I knew his churches were not paying too much. He assured me that God would take care of him. He and his wife came to our spring session in Langdale. It was during that time that God told me he planned to enroll in our regular classes the next fall ('52). He did and was one of our best students. He was not getting enough money from his churches to pay his travel and school expenses. The college provided scholarships for him, and it was the best money I have ever raised. Why did he sacrifice so much? A few days before his death he answered the question for me: "God has called me into His service, Clyde, and I want to be the best minister I can possibly be for Him."

Instead of the ordination service in his old home church, we had a funeral service. Rev. John Dollar, whom Jimmie had asked to preach the ordination sermon, preached the funeral sermon instead. It was not one of those sad funerals, though, although all of us were still shocked over the tragedy. Dick Rider, a fellow ministerial student at Southern Union, sang "Open the Gates to the Temple." All of us who participated in the service felt we could rejoice that we had a Saviour and served a God who promised us Eternal Life. That triumphant faith could be felt throughout the service.

Jimmie was serving three churches at the time of his death. His fellow ministers are trying to fill in the vacant spots, but that can't be done until more men of our area respond to God's work as he did to prepare themselves for the biggest and most important job on earth—the Christian Ministry.

—Clyde C. Flannery

— SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE —

Thank you! Thank you for making our Southeast Convention Meeting such a thrilling success. Many people worked very hard and it was most gratifying to see Pilgrim Church sanctuary packed for every session from the very beginning to the very end. Those who were unable to attend missed a great meeting that will be long remembered for its inspiration, enthusiasm, good fellowship and organizational advance. The 199 registered delegates gave ample evidence of the growing spirit of togetherness and a great determination to go forward for God and His Kingdom. Our sincere appreciation goes to our host church, the planners, the participants, our guests from the national staff, the churches who sent their delegates, and all who in any way contributed to our "mountaintop experience" in Chattanooga.

But that meeting was just the beginning! Already our new constitution, with its emphasis upon democratic procedures, clearer definition of official duties, more representative government, and the placing of responsibility in four standing committees, is beginning to function. Some of the committee chairmen are now engaged in analyzing their duties preparatory to calling a meeting of their full committee. In June there will be a planning session with a simultaneous meeting of all officers, boards, and committees—about 50 people from all sections of the Convention.

Association and Conference officers have been asking how this new Constitution will affect organization on the other levels. A re-reading of the Constitution (center section of this issue) will provide the answer. In almost every case it is assumed that the Association Constitutions (Alabama) and the Conference Constitutions (Ky.-Tenn. and Georgia-S.C.) will provide for committees similar to those provided for in the Convention. The chairmen of such committees then automatically become members of the Convention Committee. In this way are never far removed from the local church. Moderators on the other administrative levels automatically become members of the Convention Board of Directors. All of this is new in the history of the Southeast Convention. Changes will be needed of course; let us not fear them but with open minds and consecrated efforts make every change a change for the better.

We now have the framework upon which to build an efficient organization, an effective program, and an inspiring fellowship. We now have a fine group of officers eager to serve the churches and the Kingdom. We now have an opportunity to go forward with an high and holy purpose and a great power. We dare not fail!

Now just a word about coming events. I hope all of you are planning to share in one or more of the Retreats, Camps, Conferences or Conventions taking place throughout the Convention during the Coming months. (See back page of this issue) There will be ample opportunities in all of these summer events for study, recreation, the sharing of ideas and a strengthening of the

Christian bond, between us. We will be raising our eyes to the distant hills—and in our minds will be noble thoughts inspired by the wisdom of the ages—and our hands will be clasped in prayer for together

*We would be building Temples still undone . . .
Upon the solid rock We set the dream that
hardens into deed.*

*O keep us building, Master; may our hands
Ne'er falter when the dream is in our hearts.
When to our ears there come divine commands
And all the pride of sinful will departs;
We build with Thee, O grant enduring worth
Until the heavenly Kingdom comes on earth.
Amen and Amen.*

The picture (page 1) shows Superintendent Butterfield and Moderator Cashman just after the Act of Installation. It was an impressive scene; as Dr. Cashman addressed the following words to our Superintendent elect:

"Dearly Beloved: We call you, in the name of our Lord Jesus, that you have in mind unto how weighty an office and charge you are come: to be a steward of the Lord, to teach his precepts, to inspire his people, to make strong his Church, and to seek to build his kingdom on earth.

"You have weighed well these things with yourself long before this hour, and have determined by God's Grace to give yourself wholly to this office.

"Actuated by love to God and a sincere desire to further the gospel of His Son among men, are you ready to take upon you this task of ministering to and through the churches of this Convention and are you ready faithfully to serve them as Superintendent?"

Superintendent Butterfield answered, "I am ready, God being my Helper."

Dr. Cashman: "Will you tend the churches committed to your care, taking the oversight thereof not by constraint but willingly, not for worldly gain but that men may be made free in Christ Jesus?"

Superintendent Butterfield replied, "I shall so endeavor, God being my Helper."

Dr. Cashman: "Will you endeavor in the strength and grace of Jesus Christ our Lord to live a life of sincere discipleship, to be loyal to the call of duty, and faithfully to discharge all the work of the office entrusted to you?"

Superintendent Butterfield replied: "I shall so endeavor, God being my Helper."

Dr. Cashman then requested the delegates to join him in the Response:

"We, then, the representatives of the Churches of this Convention, in testimony of your high purpose, do now install you as the Superintendent of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, and we pledge to you our love, our prayers, and our steadfast cooperation that we may walk together in all the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us."

The CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS of CONGREGATIONAL

ARTICLE I. - NAME

The name of this fellowship shall be: The Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, Inc.

ARTICLE II. - BASIS OF FELLOWSHIP

The Congregational Christian Churches of this Convention, united through the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, finding in the Bible the supreme rule of faith and life, but recognizing that there is wide room for differences of interpretation among Christians, do confidently declare our fellowship to be based upon the acceptance of Christianity as primarily The Way of Life and not upon uniformity of theological opinion or any uniform practice of ordinances.

Following Congregational Christian principles, this Convention shall advise and counsel the churches when requested, but it is recognized that each church has the right of self-determination in all matters.

We humbly depend, as did our fathers, on the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, enabling us to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us.

ARTICLE III. - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Convention is to promote the Kingdom of God, and to that end it shall have a general concern for all the enterprises of the denomination in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Northwest Florida.

It shall seek to serve and strengthen the churches, associations and conferences within the Convention area by coordinating promotional activities, stimulating fellowship, programs and procedures, and by raising and expending funds in pursuance of its objectives.

ARTICLE IV. - MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with the custom that the standing of churches and ministers shall be vested in local associations and conferences, which shall ascertain and certify to their character, faith and other qualifications, this convention shall consist of:

Section 1.

Such churches and ministers as are duly accredited members of associations or conferences of Congregational Christian Churches, organized within the limits of the Convention.

All ministers in regular standing shall be members and entitled to vote.

Each church shall be entitled to three voting members of the Convention, preferably one each from the Laymen's Fellowship, the Women's Fellowship and the Pilgrim Fellowship.

Section 2.

Officers and committee members of the General Council and National Boards resident within the limits of the Convention shall be corresponding members. The Convention, when convened, may elect such other corresponding members as it may desire.

ARTICLE V. - OFFICERS

The officers of the Convention shall be the Moderator, Moderator elect, Registrar, Treasurer, and Superintendent.

Section 1. Moderator

The Convention shall elect at the annual meeting a Moderator to serve for a term of one year. He shall begin his service at the close of the annual meeting at which he is elected and will become chairman of the Board of Directors and act as President of the Corporation.

Section 2. Moderator Elect

The Moderator Elect shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. He shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the Moderator and shall immediately succeed to the powers and duties of the Moderator in the event of the incapacity of the Moderator to act. He shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Registrar

The Registrar shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year and shall keep all the records and minutes of the Convention and the Board of Directors; and, with the assistance of the Superintendent, gather the statistics of the Convention for the Year Book and keep an accurate listing of all churches and ministers of the Convention.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all the funds of the Convention under the direction of the Board of Directors, and make detailed reports of all transactions at each meeting of that Board. He shall prepare and submit complete financial reports as may be requested by the Board of Home Missions so long as the Southeast Convention maintains its semi-autonomous status under this Board. He shall be duly bonded, and the Board of Directors shall provide him with the needed clerical assistance. The Treasurer shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Superintendent

The Superintendent shall be nominated by the

of the SOUTHEAST CONVENTION CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Board of Directors and elected by the Convention for an indefinite term.

The Superintendent shall have general oversight of the churches. It shall be his duty to become informed about the various phases of the Convention work and the denomination so that his services will be most fruitful in the service of the Convention program. He shall seek to promote and coordinate the work of the Convention its Boards and Committees, under the direction of the Board of Directors, so that each phase of the work is properly emphasized. He shall visit and assist the pastors, churches, and associations with fraternal counsel but shall have no authority over them other than that agreed upon by majority vote of a church in specific situations of emergency. As the executive of the Convention, he shall represent the Convention in denominational and inter-denominational meetings. He shall make regular reports of his work to the Board of Directors, of which he shall be an *ex officio* member, and at the annual Convention sessions. He shall also serve as Secretary of the Corporation with the powers and duties which usually pertain to such an office.

Section 6. Staff

The field staff of the Convention shall consist of the Superintendent, as hereinbefore provided, an Associate Superintendent, and a Director of Christian Education who shall perform the services pertaining to their office and such other duties as may be assigned to them by the Board of Directors. They shall be *ex officio* members of the Board of Directors and shall make regular reports to the Board and the annual meeting of the Convention.

The Convention Board of Directors shall also employ such office personnel as may be needed and as funds will permit.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The governing body of the corporation shall consist of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, which shall be elected by the Convention to act for the Convention between meetings and to execute the objects and trusts which shall be committed to it by the Convention.

It shall be composed of the Convention Moderator, who shall act as chairman, the Moderator Elect, and the other members as hereinbefore provided. The Convention shall also elect at each annual meeting a member-at-large to serve for a term of three years. Other members shall include the duly elected moderator and one other representative of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, the Georgia-South Carolina Conference, and the four associations in Alabama and North-

west Florida. The moderators shall serve concurrently with their term of office as moderator, and the other representatives shall be elected for a term of one year. While the Southeast Convention continues as a semi-autonomous body under the Board of Home Missions, that body shall have the right to appoint a national staff person to serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors, under the direction of the Convention and with the approval of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches, shall receive and disburse all funds of the Convention. It shall set up committees to carry on its work as needed, and shall seek in every proper way to increase the interest of the churches in the work of the Convention and of the missionary organizations and enterprises affiliated with The General Council of Congregation Christian Churches.

In the event of a vacancy in any elected office, the Board of Directors shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term unless otherwise provided for herein.

The Board shall meet at least once every three months at a time and place of their mutual agreement. Special meetings may be called by the Moderator or upon the written request of five voting members. Seven voting members shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the Board.

ARTICLE VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

The four standing committees of the Convention shall be elected as prescribed in the By-laws and be known as:

1) **The Committee on Ministry and Churches.** It shall be the duty of this committee to initiate, plan and promote Convention-wide Convocations, Retreats, and Conferences for ministers; suggest procedures and standards relative to ordination and licensure; develop and administer Courses of Study for the training of lay preachers; advance a program of recruitment for Christian Service; and assist the Superintendent in matters of ministerial placement and pastor-church relationships.

It shall survey the needs of and promote the aid of retired and disabled ministers and their dependents in cooperation with the Division of Ministerial Relief, and shall endeavor to enroll all eligible ministers in the Annuity Fund of our fellowship.

2) **The Survey and Church Aid Committee.** It shall be the duty of this committee to investigate, initiate and advance new church projects; maintain a consulting relationship with all churches receiving missionary aid from the Board of Home Missions or the Convention; and to make

recommendations to the Board of Directors concerning the amount and type of aid to be granted.

3) **The Committee of Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education.** This committee shall seek to promote the acceptance and use of sound practices and techniques of Evangelism and Devotional life; promote effective training in Stewardship and make available to the churches educational helps and information. It shall make an annual "Every Church Canvass" seeking pledges to the various denominational benevolent projects and causes.

4) **The Committee on Christian Education and Youth Work.** This committee shall provide opportunities for leadership training in the field of Christian Education; develop, maintain, and promote the use of an audi-visual aids library; and be responsible for the Convention-wide summer program of camps and conferences.

ARTICLE VIII.

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

The Laymen's Fellowship, The Woman's Fellowship, and The Pilgrim Fellowship shall be considered as auxiliary organizations of the Convention and the duly elected Convention President of each shall become a voting member of the Board of Directors and make annual reports on progress and program to the Convention.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS AND QUORUM

The Convention shall hold its annual meeting at such time and place as may be designated by the vote of the Convention. Special meetings may be called at any time by vote of the Board of Directors.

Sixty qualified members of the Convention shall constitute a quorum necessary for the transaction of Convention business.

ARTICLE X. - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any annual meeting of the Convention providing written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been sent to all churches and ministers at least six weeks prior to the meeting.

BY-LAWS

Section 1. Rules and Committees of the Board of Directors

The Moderator of the Convention, together with the duly elected Moderators of the various associations and conferences and the Superintendent (*ex officio*) shall act as the Executive Committee of the Board. It shall meet on the call of the Moderator and/or the Superintendent and act for the Board of Directors *ad interim* and handle any matters delegated to it.

An executive session of the Board shall be held at each meeting, during which the Moderator Elect shall act as Secretary and keep all necessary minutes.

The reasonable expenses of members of the Board attending all meetings shall be paid by the Treasurer when duly certified, including six cents per mile for travel by automobile.

The fiscal year of the Convention shall begin on June 1st of each year.

Any member of the Board of Directors or any officer of the Convention removing from the territory which he represents shall forfeit such position.

Any member of the Board of Directors who fails to attend at least one Board meeting for a period of one year shall be relieved of his office and the body he represents be asked to present a new name in nomination.

The program for the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Convention shall be arranged by the Moderator, the Superintendent, the Registrar, the Pastor of the church where the Convention Meeting is to be held, and two members to be appointed by the Board of Directors.

At least two months prior to the Annual Meeting of the Convention, the Board shall appoint a **Nominating Committee** composed of five members who, in consultation with the Moderator and the Superintendent, shall prepare the slate of officers for presentation to the Convention in annual session.

At its first meeting of each new fiscal year, the Board shall appoint a **Finance Committee** of five members which shall have under constant survey the needs of the Convention, its enterprises, and study the requests of the General Council and the National Boards and Committees, and report to the Board of Directors its recommendations for financing the total program. The Finance Committee of the Board, together with the Moderator, the Superintendent and Treasurer, shall act as a **Budget Committee** and, in consultation with the Board of Home Missions and the Standing Committees of the Convention, shall draw up a proposed yearly budget to submit to the Board of Directors for their consideration and approval.

The budget as submitted shall record the entire receipts for the previous fiscal year, and estimate the probable receipts for the new fiscal year. The Board of Directors shall then adopt the budget, with such changes as have been approved, as the permanent budget for the current year.

All appropriations in excess of the budget adopted for the year shall be referred to the Finance Committee before final action.

The Board shall appoint a **Committee on Public Relations and Promotion**, composed of three members plus the Moderator, the Superintendent and the Registrar. This committee shall have the oversight of all printed and promotional materials developed for Convention use and promotion, all releases to the press, the publishing of **The Southeast News** and the encouragement of the use of **Advance** magazine, both for promotion and subscriptions.

Section 2. - Election and Membership of Standing Committees of the Convention

A. The Standing Committees shall be composed of a chairman and four members nominated by the Nominating Committee and presented to the Annual Meeting of the Convention for election. They shall serve for a term of one year, but

(Please turn to page 12)

Church News



Rev. and Mrs. Joe A. French

On the occasion of his fourth anniversary as pastor of the LANETT CHURCH, the Rev. and Mrs. Joe A. French were honored with a party and presented with a Haviland china service for eight.

The party was planned by the Missionary Auxiliary, with Vester Dobson as master of ceremonies. Entertainment was in the form of a fashion show, with the men of the church dressed as various celebrities. Outstanding characterizations were Barney Google and Snuffy Smith.

Dean A. R. Van Cleave, of Southern Union College, expressed appreciation for the fine services rendered by the Rev. French and family to the church, community, East Alabama Association and state conference, and as Moderator of the Southeast Convention for two years.

Refreshments were served from the beautifully decorated table.

The following Sunday evening, the Rev. and Mrs. French invited the church people to the parsonage for coffee and cake. This afforded an opportunity for seeing the newly decorated parsonage as well as the enjoyment of hospitality and fellowship.

—Mrs. A. D. Harry

* * *

One of the two new churches of Georgia, the FIRST CHURCH OF DOUGLAS, held its spring revival in cooperation with the other churches of the community, April 19-25. The Rev. A. Goff Bedford, pastor of the Langdale Church, was the evangelist. Several people were won to the church.

The Rev. Bedford reports the condition of the church as being excellent. A well-located lot in the north section of Douglas, several miles away from the nearest other church, is owned by the church. New homes are growing on all sides. The families are young, often with small children. Several members and supporters drive nine miles from Brocton. The Rev. W. C. Carpenter, the local minister, has developed a list of over a hun-

dred prospects. He has worked over Douglas with a fine tooth comb hunting for those who are not active in the church. The community has a large number of young men and women who have never joined a church.

The church building consists of a white frame house designed ultimately to be a parsonage. The interior is not finished with other than removable partitions which create the sanctuary and the class rooms. Another building, eventually to be the parsonage garage, has been built and is used as the church office and nursery. The church hopes soon to begin the basement of a permanent building.

One of the interesting features of the revival was a letter written by the Rev. E. C. Morris, the promotional Secretary of the Free Will Baptists, urging all Douglas Free Will Baptists to attend the Congregational Christian Church until such time as a Free Will Church could be organized.

—A. Goff Bedford

* * *

On April 12th, a former pastor of the ROB-BINS PARISH, the Rev. J. W. Davenport, now Moderator of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, came and spoke to the churches on the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign. All three churches have sent in their declarations of purpose—Barton Chapel, Glen Mary and Deer Lodge.

On the 18th and 19th, a deputation came from Berea College, including a student from Africa and a teacher who had spent two years in Paraguay. Four services were held at Barton Chapel and Deer Lodge, and the response was very good.

The youth club of the church, BYKTOA (Be ye kind to others always) is still meeting regularly under the leadership of pastor and the local young people.

—Wm. R. Scharman

* * *

The ROANOKE, ANTIOCH CHURCH held its annual Memorial Day service on Sunday, May 10th. The program included a story, "A Little Parable for Mothers" which was given by Linda Lee. The invocation was given by Parker Moon. The Rev. C. S. Bennett of Wadley delivered a wonderful sermon entitled "I Remember." A large crowd of people attended the services and luncheon was brought by each family. With the permission of the congregation, the Rev. Charles Bell, pastor, called off the night service.

—Ann Moon and Linda Lee

* * *

THE EAST TALLASSEE CHURCH held its quarterly family night on May 11th in the social room of the church. This is the regular meeting of the Women's Fellowship and each quarter the entire family is invited to come and bring lunch. After the meal a film was shown.

The choir had an informal party after practice May 12th, in honor of Mrs. Louise Clark, who graduates on May 18th. The choir and young people's groups presented her with a watch for her graduation and in appreciation of her two years service as pianist for the church.

The East Tallassee Church is well-represented

with presidents of different organizations. Mrs. Jettie Logan is state president of Woman's Work, Mrs. Miriam Fralic is president of the Central Alabama Association Women, Floyd Carmack was elected president of the high school student body and Mrs. Lorelei Ballard was elected president of the Tallassee Council of Church Women.

Reporting on the progress in the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign, a committee consisting of Mrs. Floyd Ballard, Mrs. Wilma Pemberton, Mrs. G. F. Logan and Bobby Jack Pemberton has collected \$68 towards the church pledge of \$320.

—Mrs. Floyd Ballard

* * *

Revival services began at the Alexander City HUNT MEMORIAL CHURCH on May 31, with the Rev. Lowell A. Smoot, pastor of the United Church of Phenix City, conducting the services.

The church held an ice-cream social the latter part of April, and everyone present enjoyed it very much.

* * *

A meeting of the MACEDONIA PARISH was held at the Sardis Church, Oxford, Ga., on May 3rd. The Rev. Henry Weaver, Atlanta, was the morning speaker and showed films during the afternoon.

During the business session, a committee was appointed to work with the young people and to encourage them to go to Waycross for the Summer Conference. The committee consists of the Rev. Weaver, H. C. Eddleman, Moses Fleming, the Rev. Jas. T. McAdams and Mrs. Roy Martin. Henry Eddleman Jr. and the Rev. McAdams offered to sponsor two young people each for attending the Waycross Summer Conference.

* * *

The PILGRIM CHURCH of Corbin Ky., has recently been remodeled under the supervision of Lester Root. Exterior work has been completed with the exception of the mounting of the church bell—a project which has been delayed because of the weather. Pilgrim Church is the oldest church in Corbin, and a plaque will be placed on the bell giving the date of its founding—1886.

Since the Rev. Charles Drake can no longer be



Pilgrim Church, Corbin, Kentucky



Vanceville Easter Sunrise Service

THE VANCEVILLE CHURCH held its Easter Sunrise Program by a lake near the church. Services were conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Henry Abbott, and afterwards the Youth Fellowship presented an inspiring program. The beautiful arrangement of Dogwood and Cross was furnished by Denson Wood, president of the Youth Fellowship.

with us, we will have supply pastors each Sunday. Prof. J. R. Henderson of Barbourville and Dr. A. H. Doak of Middlesboro have supplied our pulpit in the past. It is hoped that for the summer we will have a student minister.

At a recent church meeting, Edward Cummins was elected moderator. The members pledged \$111 to the Church Building Loan Fund and voted to send \$50 immediately.

The Junior Dept. Boys' Class met April 15 at the home of their teacher, C. B. Smith, and pledged \$10 toward the Church Building Loan Fund.

The kindergarten class which has occupied the Fellowship Room for the past two years, had its annual commencement May 11 in the church. Mrs. Charles Nelson is the new teacher and 10 children received diplomas.

* * *

The VALPARAISO COMMUNITY CHURCH resumed the evening service in May, with a lecture each Sunday night on one of the twelve disciples, beginning with Peter and going through the twelve.

The Juniors have begun Sunday evening meetings at 6:30, and are studying "How Our Bible Came to Us." This study group is for children aged 8 to 12.

A Vacation Bible School will be held June 29 thru July 10, and plans are being made to make it a worthwhile and enriching experience for the children attending.

—Collie Seymour, Pastor

Laymen's Fellowship

During the Seminar for the laymen of the Southeast Convention, held as a part of the program of the Southeast Convention Meeting in Chattanooga, May 16-17, Herman Cook, Lanett, Ala., was elected Convention President. Allen Saunders, of Chattanooga, was elected Vice President and Richard Drake, Atlanta, was chosen as Secretary-Treasurer.

A Constitution was adopted—as hurriedly but expertly drawn up by Walter A. Graham.

Dr. Robert Cashman spoke to the group on "Something Worthy to Do," saying that the laymen organizations need projects for growth.

Walter Graham, National Director of the Laymen's Fellowship, told of the growth of the National Fellowship from zero in 1946 to 3,000 laymen's groups in our 5,697 churches today. He said that the reason for this growth is the realization by men that the church's message is vital to today's world—and now is the time to do something about it.

Mr. Graham also told of the need for an assistant to him for the national work, and said he had already selected the man—all he needed was to raise the money for his salary. The laymen of the Southeast Convention accepted a goal of \$300 for this next year to be raised among themselves.

* * *

Your Other Vocation

The annual retreat for the laymen of the Southeast Convention Congregational Christian Churches is being held at Southern Union College the week-end of June 5-6-7, 1953, with the theme, "Your Other Vocation." The Retreat is sponsored by the East Alabama - West Georgia Laymen's Fellowship.

Leaders for the sessions are the Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Van B. Taunton, the Rev. Richard K. Morton, Allan Saunders, the Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, Odell Yancey, the Rev. Carl Dollar, James Dollar, Major Logan Weston, and Herman Cook.

* * *

The LAYMAN'S FELLOWSHIP of the Central Alabama Association met at Mt. Olive Church, March 7, for their annual meeting. Supper was served to 21 laymen, who were representatives from the Thorsby, East Tallassee, Liberty and Mt. Olive churches. Herman Cook, National Committeeman for Alabama, and three laymen from the Lanett Church were visitors.

The meeting was called to order by the Mt. Olive president, Tom Slaughter, and an interesting talk on "What is Layman?" was given by the vice president of the Central Association, Mr. Williams, of Thorsby.

New officers for the association were elected as follows: Jack Bridgman, President; Roy Culpepper, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Cook made a very interesting talk on the importance of laymen in the church and discussed the literature for better programs.

—Roy Culpepper



Hermon D. Cook

The Laymen's Fellowship of THE UNITED CHURCH, Phenix City, has started holding Prayer Meetings twice a month to strengthen the church spiritually.

On April 18th they had a most successful Steak Supper and all of the profit went on their pledge to the Church for the Building Program. They have finished their Material Project for the year, and on May 5th A. H. Bray and Hugh Phillips put the finishing touch by installing book racks on all the pews.

The Laymen, with the able assistance of the ladies of the church, held a Bar-be-cue May 2nd, and realized a profit of \$636, which was applied on the Sunday School building now being erected.

A Boy Scout Troop was organized recently, and Edward Riddle was appointed Scout Master. Mr. Riddle made a community survey and had thirty boys to sign applications for membership. Rudolph Starling was named Explorer Leader. This project will mean much to the growth of our church and community.

—Paralee Hill

* * *

On Wednesday night, April 22, the men of the OAK GROVE CHURCH and community met at the club house for a program of inspiration and to choose officers. Dr. Howard Worth, a member of the faculty of LaGrange College, was the guest speaker. He talked of the derivation of names, and told of the background of many names of people in the community.

During the business session, the men decided that a similar meeting should be held each month and proceeded to elect the following officers: President, J. K. Murphy; Vice-president, Bentley Thompson; Secretary, Joe Smith; Program Committee: R. E. Hodnett, Bennett Floyd, Homer Hagler.

It was felt that the Men's Fellowship should have projects and for the first one they decided to improve the appearance of the club house grounds.

—Joe Smith

673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP —

The Pilgrim Fellowship Seminar, held during the Southeast Convention meeting, May 16-17, was convened by Millard Fuller, of Lanett, Ala. A slate of officers was elected as follows: President, Millard Fuller; Vice-president, John Shepherd, Chipley, Ga.; and Secretary, Betty Slater, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Miss Loretta Petersen spoke briefly to the group on the purposes and aims of the meeting.

The young people decided to retain the present state groups, with the over-all Convention officers to correlate the work of the state groups. They voted to plan separate meetings for the young people at the annual Convention Meetings, and a convention-wide youth rally every two years on a week-end. Thirty-two young people were present, representing fourteen churches.

A casual observer of the sessions of the young people would have noticed that they entered their meeting hesitant and unsure of themselves, and in little separate groups and cliques. As the meeting got underway, and they were assured that they could conduct their own meeting and make their own plans, they began to gather confidence and poise. Out of all this working and planning together began to emerge a group of young people with a common purpose—to work together for the good of all the young people of the Southeast Convention and to make plans for the total fellowship rather than just for their individual group.

The program of the young people of the Southeast Convention is indeed looking brighter and full of promise for the future!

* * *

Pilgrim Fellowship meetings are monthly at PILGRIM CHURCH in Chattanooga, with extra activities scheduled between meetings. The mothers of the young people take turns providing supper on the third Friday of each month. The boys and girls gather at 4:30 for ping-pong and other games followed by business meetings, workshops, supper and the program and worship service. This year we have been using EVERYDAY CHRISTIANS for our program material. Often we have square dancing and group games.

Chattanooga PFers observed WORKDAY FOR CHRIST and took part in the church service on Youth Sunday. Many of our older members are active in the city-wide United Christian Youth Movement.



Millard Fuller

The following newly elected officers were installed at the April meeting: Barbara Nolting, President; Carey Brown, Vice-president; Pat Stinecipher, Secretary; and Fran Mooney, Treas.

—Eleanor Gager, Adult Advisor

THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

(From page 8)

may not serve for more than four consecutive terms.

B. Conference and Association chairmen of corresponding committees shall serve as voting members of the appropriate Convention committee.

C. The Board of Directors may assign paid staff personnel to serve as advisors to the various committees. Meetings of the committees may be called by the chairman or upon the request of the Moderator and the Superintendent.

Section 3. - Amendments

These By-laws may be amended by majority vote at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors, providing the proposed amendments are consistent with the provisions of the Constitution.

(Adopted by unanimous vote at the Southeast Convention meeting May 17, 1953.)